

Stranded

by Hypermind

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Summary: A vacation for Zootopia's two finest officers turns into a struggle for survival. Now stranded on an unknown island in the middle of nowhere, Nick Wilde and Judy Hopps must do everything they can to survive as they plan for their rescue, or their escape, from the strange island they find themselves on.

1. Prologue

**Stranded**

Chapter 0: Prologue

Vacation.

A simple word that, to many, could only mean pleasant times were coming. All that it implied, a time to relax, have fun; see the sights of lands near and far. Yes, a word that many would often look forward to hearing. A word that brought nothing but smiles to many stressed and overworked souls. Even more so if it were to be accompanied by the fact that it was an all-expenses paid cruise. A free vacation. Pure blissâ€!

If Nick could do so, he would be laughing at that thoughtâ€œif he could think about something other than staying alive. The fox could only make due with trying to get his bearings, but being tossed around in tumultuous sea water, paired with the muffled booming of thunder from being submerged, made doing so an impossible task.

Attached to him, by means of tied life jackets, Judy did her best to do the same in trying to figure out which way was up or down. She succeeded less so than her partner, the little rabbit's mind going into a panicked overdrive as the events that led to this madness flashed before her eyes.

It had happened all too fast. Waking to the sudden jostling of the cruise liner as it rode out the freak storm. Then the alert that the ship had hit something, not even certain of what was struck, and that it was now sinking. Then they had assisted the ship's crew in directing vacationers to the life boats. And the last thing they did was put on their life jackets, tied together at the buckles with a simple single knot.

That last act. The act of tying themselves to one another. That was the single most important thing the two officers could've done, for they found themselves overboard from another sudden jerk caused by a massive wave colliding with the ship's broadside. A moment of screaming lost within the thunder and rushing water. A sudden splash, followed by equally sudden darkness, submerged in the murky depths belowâ€|

Neither of them could really tell how long they were in the water. It was fortunate that at random points they suddenly found themselves above the surface, taking strained lungfuls of air before being taken under once more. The torrential force of the waves as they crashed in on the pair kept them conscious, much to their dismay.

For Nick, being forced to stay conscious was a blessing in disguise, gripping onto his partner tightly, terrified at the thought of losing her in the chaos. It was amazing he was able to do so despite how weak the rest of him felt. But the fear kept him focused on at least holding on to her, he would be damned if he lost her here.

Judy tried her best to snap out of her panicked state, but with each wave that came down on them she could only pray that it wouldn't be the wave to do them in. She was begging to whatever forces were at work that they would end up on solid ground, alive and intact. But it was as if the sea was torturing them, holding the two prisoners locked in a cage of despair. The thought of death loomed overhead along with the dark and ominous clouds. Each flash of lightning allowed the two to bear witness to furious waters, the horizons devoid of any land; cruelly teasing them and dashing any hopes they might've had that this ordeal would soon come to an end.

Nick closed his eyes, clutching onto Judy as best as he could. In this moment, the waterlogged fox managed a single instance of clarity, the fear replaced with hopelessness. He had but one grim thought.

'_This is it; this is how it ends for us, drowned from trying to enjoy a vacation!' _

The thought was dashed immediately as his grip on Judy loosened. She let out a scream just as they were above water, causing Nick to snap out of it in time to keep his hold. The fear returned, the fear of losing the rabbit he called his partner. The rabbit he had come to love. Clarity came to him again, his resolve renewed and refusing to falter. Another thought came to him, this time entirely opposite to his previous thought just mere seconds ago.

'_No! I want to live! I want her to live! We're going to get out of this! We're-' _

The thought never finished as the pair collided against the surface of something. They assumed they had just flopped hard onto an

oncoming waveâ€¦but then why weren't they underwater anymore?

Nick looked up weakly whilst coughing and wheezing. Everything around him was a blur, and despite his night vision, his eyes could not focus on anything in the darkness that surrounded them. He could only make out smudges of distorted colors, silhouettes of what appeared to be trees and other forms of vegetation or perhaps rocks. He looked to his side; Judy was there much to his relief, the landing having caused her to be stunned as her eyes rolled around weakly. He placed a paw against her soaked head as she coughed, watching her as she winced from the crushing sensation of having the wind knocked out of her. She slumped over as waves rolled by them, gently carrying them further inward to what Nick could only assume to be land at this point. The fox took his paw off his partner's head, placing it on the soaked ground between them, grabbing a pawful of grey, muddy sand. Landâ€¦what luckâ€¦what incredibly dumb luck.

They survived, against all odds, by sheer luck they were placed on an island.

And with that, like his partner, Nick slumped over, closing his eyes to join Judy in her unconsciousness. The relief washed over him much like the waters that came up to them every few seconds. They were safeâ€¦for the moment.

A/N: I don't do Fanficsâ€¦but for Zootopia, I happily make an exception. This is effectively my first Fanfic, EVER. A few reviews and some pointers would be much appreciated!

2. Awakening

Chapter 1: Awakening

It was the early hours of the morning and the sun was only beginning to peek out from the horizon. The golden rays cast itself amidst the clouds, painting the sky in vibrant yellow which cascaded into rich blues. A sunrise that soon cast its light on a pair of mammals resting on a lonely beach. Survivors to a tragedy, a rabbit and a fox, famous ZPD officers Judy Hopps and her partner Nick Wilde.

Nick was the first to stir from his slumber as pain seeped into every inch of his battered body. He didn't know how long he had been asleep, but he could tell it hadn't been long. He groaned while trying to get off his left side, stopped by the sensation of being tethered to something. Opening his eyes slowly, his vision adjusts to let him see a still sleeping Judy. He looked to see that he was still tied to her. The recollection of the perilous trial they faced returning to him in bits and pieces. Sighing and wincing, he attempted to undo the buckles to his life jacket. Every movement was strenuous, his muscles screaming at him to stop everything and to be still. He ignored the pain to finally get the jacket unbuckled and slipped out of it.

Standing up was to be his second greatest accomplishment next to waking this morning it would seem. His legs could only shake as he struggled to even get on one knee. Slowly and steadily he managed to stand, albeit with the painful protest of his muscles.

Nick still had on a bright yellow raincoat with his signature lime

green tropical shirt and tan khakis underneath. Both articles of clothing were tattered and already had a few holes in them, as well as still being damp. His fur was a disheveled mess with sand caked onto half of his body. Against the wishes of his sore body he shook himself off and removed the coat. He homed in on the sounds before anything else; his eyes clamped shut from pain. The sounds of a gentle breeze accompanied by waves washing over sand and rocks were the initial noises to greet him.

The worn fox opened his eyes as slowly as everything else he had done for the past few minutes. He still struggled to see past even a few feet ahead, vision returning to him after a few blinks and he could finally make out his surroundings. The early light of the sun beamed down on the long stretch of sandy beach. He didn't know what he expected since he knew he would be looking at sand and trees.

What surprised him, however, was the sheer size of the island they had washed up on. He peered out along the shores and barely made out where the beach ended in the distance. He then faced away from the sea, staring with his mouth agape and wide eyed bewilderment at the jungle before him. He thought the rainforest district had some impressive trees, but they were nothing compared to the dense wall before him, each tree being nearly twice the height and thickness of the trees back in the city.

By this point, Judy began to stir as well, groaning much like her partner had done on his awakening. Steadily she brought herself to sit upright. She shook her head, clutching the left side of her head in a futile effort to stifle the headache that resonated in her skull. Grumbling, she undid the life jacket and chucked it next to Nick's. A sharp pain pierced her right shoulder causing her to grip the spot, wincing and sucking in air.

Nick turned to the noise, seeing his partner had awoken and was clearly in pain.

"Judy! Y-you ok?!" he asked with worry in his voice as he rushed to her side, completely disregarding his own aches and kneeling to inspect her shoulder.

"I-I'm fine, Nick! I think I think I might've landed on my shoulder last night" she explains, recalling the moment they had hit the beach. She noted that Nick had addressed her by name, something he only really did when he was being serious or showing concern. She looked to him with a weak smile to try and ease that concern. "Hey, don't go worrying about me, I'm tougher than I look," she remarked while getting up on her feet. She had on her own raincoat and under that was her pink flannel top paired with light blue jeans, also within a state of disrepair much like Nick's attire. After ditching her raincoat, she unveiled her shoulder to find that it was bruised lightly. "See? Nothing serious," she assured him with a soft laugh, trying her best to hide how much it was actually hurting her.

"You're lying to me, Carrots, I know how tough you are but that doesn't mean you can't get hurt! come on, I'll make you a sling," he offered as he reached down to grab the life jackets.

Judy couldn't really argue with the fox, he knew her too well and didn't protest as he worked. Using his claws he tore out some of the

excess straps on the life jackets. He then tore off his sleeves and tied the fabrics to the straps. Nick handed her the makeshift sling to which she gratefully accepted.

"Thanksâ€|what about you though?" she asked, seeing her partner was shaking under his own weight.

"Just soreâ€|really soreâ€|probably because I was trying to keep hold of you in that shit-storm," he stated, sitting down to face the sea.

Judy nodded, remembering clearly how Nick had held her while fighting the force of the waves. Had he let go, the straps would not have been enough to keep them together. She sat beside him, staring out to sea with him.

The pair sat their quietly, sighing in unison. They felt they should've been panicking, but either lacked the energy to do so or were too relieved to just be alive. Both ways panicking wouldn't have done any good and they knew it.

Judy broke the silence between them. "Soâ€|any idea where we are?" she asked while rubbing her aching head.

Nick shrugged before replying. "Nopeâ€|all I know isâ€|that wherever we areâ€|at least the view is niceâ€|" he stated, watching the sun come up ever so slowly.

"We were incredibly lucky to land here, huh?" Judy added on, chuckling to herself.

"Yea, at least we didn't land on those rocks over there" Nick pointed out to his left. Sure enough, just fifteen feet from where they had landed was a row of various rocks, some of which jutted out menacingly with sharp points.

The thought of what could've happened sent shivers down the rabbit's spine, causing her to curl in on herself, resting her head against her knees. "Yeaâ€|but that wasn't what I meantâ€|I meant we were lucky to have landed anywhere at all," she stated while keeping her gaze on the sunrise. "I was justâ€|so certain that we were going to drownâ€|" she added, her voice growing weak.

Nick placed a paw on her back, nodding in agreement to her statement. _ 'Had we given up hope and let the waves take usâ€|' _ Nick shook his head, not wanting to dwell on that thought.

Another moment of silence passed, broken this time by a low rumbling. Nick looked down at his exposed belly, realizing the sound was coming from his gut. Judy giggled upon hearing the noise, stopping when she realized her own stomach was begging for sustenance.

The pair looked at each other before breaking out into small laughter. Nick stood up with less effort than before as he grew accustomed to the soreness, stretching to let his back pop. He looked to his partner, smiling and offering a paw to help her up. "Well Carrots, for now I suggest we work on getting something to eat, then we can worry aboutâ€|well, whatever it is we need to do," he says while looking around.

Judy nodded at the suggestion; they were going to need all the energy they could get before working out a way off the island. Then came a small sound from behind herâ€|

Sssssâ€|

The noise was rather sudden and the two looked to the source. It was the sound of sand shifting, and from the beach a crab had surfaced. Nick stared at the small crustacean as it teetered off away from them.

"â€|Well then, I guess I'll be having crab for breakfast," he looked to Judy, "as for you Carrots, there's a palm tree over there, and I can see some coconuts on it," he suggested, looking behind him to a large palm tree in the distance. From where they stood the tree was obviously bearing fruit, and within the pods were certainly the sweet drupes.

"Yeah, that could be tastyâ€| just need to work out a way to get them down," she said while tapping her lips and shifting the arm resting in the sling.

Nick chuckled as he looked back at the slowly escaping crab before meeting Judy's eyes again. "Tell you what Carrots, I'll help you with the coconuts after I catch that little morsel, you work on getting-

"Something to start a fire?" she added, finishing his sentence to which he nodded with a chuckle.

"We have a plan?" Nick asked while stretching some more.

"We have a plan." Judy confirmed, walking towards the palm tree.

"We'll rendezvous at that palm tree." Nick finished before following the crab, breaking into a jog.

And thus began their day. Despite all that had happened, they took it all in stride. They knew that they had to survive for now before planning for their rescue. What's done is done. That was the fact of the matter and it only confirmed that their lack of distress was simply out of relief of being alive. They were alive. So they were going to make sure to keep it that way.

**A/N: This story was inspired by several things, some of which include **_*Lost, Gulliver's Travels, *_and **_*Castaway.

_*Expect someâ€|strange things to occur in upcoming chapters.

3. Matters of Size and Mortality

Chapter 2: Matters of Size and Mortality

Judy walked along the beach as Nick went off to catch his breakfast, heading to the edge of the jungle. She thought it best to not try and go into the dense thicket and kept to picking up small twigs and branches along the border where dirt and sand met. A pile had soon formed near the palm tree that her and Nick were supposed to meet

back at. Judy looked thoughtfully at the pile, considering what else would be needed. She figured some stones to make a pit would be a good start, but the rabbit knew she was forgetting something important and thought carefully.

"Oh! Tinder, duh!" she exclaimed as she began looking for something dry to light up eventually.

Judy examined the palm tree, noting the way the bark was peeling. She tore out some of the twisting bark then took note of the tree itself. It hadn't occurred to her until she was in front of the tree that it was unusually tall for a palm tree and she certainly didn't expect it to be so wide around. She placed her paw on the dense trunk as she paced around it. Then she looked up to see the coconuts, curious as to what they would be like considering the strangeness of the tree.

Judy reared back before charging, giving the tree a solid kick towards its base. It barely rustled. She huffed but refused to be defeated. She reared back more delivering another, more powerful kick, this time with both feet. It shook but did not yield any of its fruit. The rabbit frowned up in annoyance, this time making a considerable amount of distance. With a mighty shout she ran at the tree, kicking off the ground and attempting to strike the tree a quarter of the way up from the base. Both of her feet connect and she kicks off of it, landing not-so gracefully as her arm forced her off balance. Still she landed on her feet while teetering backwards. Looking up the shaken tree, she finally sees a single fruit come down. Victory was hers as she smiled triumphantly.

"Alright, come to-"

THOOM!

The rabbit shielded her eyes at the sand that flew up from the landing of the coconut. Slowly she brought herself to see what had fallen as the dust settled. Her eyes grew wide. She approached the fallen fruit slowly, her mouth slightly agape.

"Sweet cheese and crackers!"

She knew coconuts were supposed to be rather large while in its husk but even she knew that it wasn't supposed to be this large. The fruit was as large as she was and easily twice her mass. Hesitantly, Judy brought herself to grab the stocky stem of the oversized monster of a coconut and pulled it from its crater. She could hear the liquid sloshing around in the hollow cavity in its center.

Judy dragged the massive coconut next to the pile of firewood she had gathered and then sat in front of it. She was still trying to make sense of the thing she was looking at. She even pinched herself to make sure she wasn't dreaming. No, it was real, it was definitely real. She was definitely sitting in front of a giant coconut.

"Ok!" she exclaims again to no one particular. "This island has giant coconuts that's not a bad thing, I mean, look at you! You're huge! That means more food for us!" she adds on with a nervous laugh.

It took her a moment to realize that she was starting to talk to the coconut. She slaps her forehead.

"Ugh, Nickâ€|please come back soon before I lose any more of my sanityâ€|"

* * *

><p>Nick kept his focus on the crab ahead as it skittered off at full speed. It surprised him just how fast it was despite how small the creature is. Probably no bigger than a cell phone. As he continued his pursuit, he contemplated on how it would even taste. If anything he would've liked it to be a soft-shell, something that had only recently molted, then at least he could eat the whole thing. The fox licked his lips, driven by the incessant rumbling in his stomach.<p>

Nick leapt at the fleeing crab, trying his best to ignore his soreness in his chase. The sand made for a somewhat soft landing having missed the crab. It didn't help that the sand made getting any speed difficult. Not only that, but the uneven terrain also allowed the crab to easily outmaneuver him.

Frustration reigned as Nick got up growling from both his throat and empty stomach. His soon to be breakfast was making a fool of him and he wouldn't stand for it. His anger only grew as the crab dug back into the sand.

"Oh no you don't!" Nick shouts as he dives into the spot the crab retreated to. He dug furiously, panting as sand flew in all directions. He soon felt his paw grip something smooth and hard. "Ha! Gotcha you little-"

Pffssh

Nick looked to the sudden noise, seeing two oddly shaped black lumps poking out from the sand before him. He looked at the lumps quizzically, observing them carefully. His ears drew back to his head, eyes widening when the two black lumps moved. He realized what they wereâ€|they were eye stalks.

The sand shifted abruptly, causing Nick to let go of whatever it was he was holding and to back away quickly. Dust kicked up, the sound of sand falling and loud clicking emanated from the spot. The cloud settled and Nick stared in disbelief at what had surfaced.

It was a crabâ€|a crab nearly three times his size.

Silence fell and both Nick and the crab stared at each other as the smaller crab that the fox chased earlier surfaced as well, fleeing from the stand-off. He stared down at the beastly crustacean before him while backing away. The crab clicked its massive claws it held close to its body, each one of its pincers being as large as the fox. It raised its claws holding them outward and raising its body.

Nick had angered the beast.

He screamed turning tail just as the crab began chasing him. The smaller crab must've been the larger crab's child or perhaps sibling. Either way the tables had turned on Nick and he frantically fled.

while holding a steady scream.

Snap!

Nick felt a pincer just barely graze the tip of his tail, making him yelp and clutch his tail as he continued his escape. He dared not look back and focused on the length of beach ahead.

Snap!

This time he could feel the pincer missing his shirt. It was gaining on him. His body screamed with him, his sore muscles wanting him to slow down. Adrenaline alone was keeping him going. His mind raced in a futile attempt at devising some way out of the mess he was in. Each time the death vice of the crab missed him only caused him to forget any plan he could've made. One idea finally pushed through, and with all his might he screamed.

"***CARROOOOTS! "***

* * *

><p>"CARROOOOTS! "

Judy snapped out of her trance, having fixated herself to ponder on how the coconut was so massive. Her ears shot up as she looked to the direction of the scream.

'_That sounded like Nick!_' she thought, darting off from the ground and towards the screaming.

It didn't take her long to find him, stopping as she saw the panicked fox running towards her.

"Nick?! W-what's-"

"**Don't talk, RUN!" **Nick interrupted her, as he ran by her.

A split second was all Judy had to see her partner's pursuer; a large shelled creature practically galloping sideways towards them. With her own scream she turned and ran alongside Nick. "Nick! What is that?!" she asked frantically, peeking back every few seconds.

"It's a fucking crab, what does it look like?!" Nick shouted his tone full of irritation.

"Why is it huge?!" She had only recently accepted the mysterious giant coconut, now completely baffled by the beast chasing them. "Crabs can't be that big!" She shouted.

"Tell that to the crab!" Nick retorted feeling a pincer miss him again.

The two continued their running and screaming, the crab keeping either of them from separating as it attempted to catch them. Soon they found themselves approaching the palm tree. Judy looked ahead, her eyes widening as she formed a plan.

"Nick! We need to make it to that tree!"

"Wha-Why?!" Nick asked with a shout.

"Just do it!" she shouted back, looking up at the palm tree.

Judy looked back briefly as Nick ran past the tree. She stopped abruptly, turning to face the oncoming guillotine as she held her ground. Nick stopped to look back once he realized his partner was no longer next to him. He looked on with horror upon seeing Judy face down the colossal crab. He screamed out in protest.

"Judy, **NO!**"

Time seemed to slow down for the rabbit as she saw the massive claw come down on her. In the last second, she launched herself upwards while holding her legs close to her body. The pincer came up short on crushing down on the rabbit and lodging itself to the tree instead. Judy brought down her legs, both of her feet coming down to crush the joint along the massive clawed arm. Kicking off, she rolled directly under the crab, tumbling forward until she was on its other side. She winced at the stinging sensation in her shoulder. The crab looked to the rabbit and attempted to chase after her only to be stopped due to its claw still being stuck to the tree. The sudden jerking allowed the chain reaction the clever rabbit had planned to come into effect as a massive coconut came down on the crab.

Clonk!

Judy and Nick winced at the sound, peeking to see the aftermath. At first it seemed as though nothing had happened, the tenacious crab merely standing there.

Crack!

A hairline fissure formed on the carapace, starting from the edge of its shell in between its eye stalks down to its rear. Again it stood still, the pair watching in anticipation. The crab began to foam at its mouth, signaling that it was suffocating on something. It occurred to them soon after what it was suffocating on as the white bubbles turned to an inky dark blue. Its blood. Grim as it was, it was choking on its own blood. The crab shook and hissed while spurting blue blood from its foaming mouth, the hissing breaking up as though it were coughing. Judy looked on, horrified as she watched it die. Finally, the large crab collapsed, toppling forward with a mighty thud. It ceased its movement soon after.

They stared at the crab in horrified silence. Nick slowly walked around the crab, not once looking away from it, his body facing it the whole time. He stood by Judy, who looked at the creature with pity in her eyes. Even despite the fact it had tried to kill them mere seconds ago she still couldn't help but feel sorry for the creature. Nick looked to her, seeing the expression in her eyes.

"C-carrots?"

She turned to her partner who looked back at her with worry. "I-I-I killed it," she stated as she began to shake, the adrenaline dying down.

Nick looked back at the fallen beast, putting an arm around her.

"Well, i-it might not be deadâ€|it could just be-

Crack!

The pair jumped at the sudden noise. Another coconut had fallen, this time caving in the shell from the crack that had formed earlier. They stared wide eyed at the scene before looking at each other. Judy began to tear up; her plan had worked, but a little too well. "I d-didn't mean for it to die, I just-I thought it might stun it!" she tried to reason as she placed her free paw over her mouth.

Nick did his best to console her, holding her gently and letting his partner bury her face into the fur on his chest.

"Carrotsâ€|Judyâ€|you did nothing wrong, that thing would've killed us at any given chanceâ€|" he explained to her in the most comforting tone he could offer. He held her tightly while being careful not to touch her shoulder. "You saved us," he added.

Judy sniffled in the embrace, wiping her eyes and looking up. "It was just protecting that smaller crab you were chasingâ€|wasn't it?" she asked but not so much out of accusation.

Nick winced knowing she was probably right about that.

"â€|Yeahâ€|that's more than likely it." He replied hesitantly, turning to look at the large crab. "I'm sorryâ€|I made you have to do something you were never meant to do," he apologized while sitting down, burying his face into his paws. Being a prey, especially a rabbit like her, meant she had no instinct in killing for her food and he regretted having brought her into the mess of dealing with the monster crab.

Judy sat beside Nick, biting her lip and placing her paw on his shoulder. "Noâ€|you need to eat somethingâ€|I can't honestly expect you to survive off of just fruits and vegetables," she stated while looking at the crab. "Ifâ€|if this is something I have to do to make sure you get some kind of protein thenâ€|I'll accept it," she added, wiping her eyes once more.

"You won't have to do this, I promise you, I'll do it myself next timeâ€|I don't want you to have to do anything you don't want to, that you're notâ€|meant to do," Nick replied as he took her paw in his.

"Nickâ€|I want you to liveâ€|that's what I want and if helping you get some kind of meat does just that, then it is what I'm meant to do," she returned, squeezing his paw lightly.

Nick smiled warmly at her, appreciating her concern. "Sly bunnyâ€|"

"Dumb foxâ€|don't go thinking for a second that I'm not willing to do whatever it takes to help you survive," she finished, resting her head on his shoulder.

The two look at the corpse of the crab for a few more minutes, still bewildered before deciding that it wasn't wise to waste any further daylight. Nick approached the body, lifting the coconut from the crater and setting it aside with the other two. He carefully worked each of the joints, dismantling the crab's arms and legs.

Judy watched at first and then turned her attention to the coconuts. Finding a sharp rock she began the task of removing the husk. As expected, the drupes underneath were still relatively large, being half her size.

They began processing the food for their meals. Judy started a fire while Nick prepared a claw to be spit roasted. They found a creative use for the other claw, working as a team to split one of the coconuts within the pincer. By the time they had accomplished their mission of preparing a meal, judging the position of the sun, Nick assumed it was already lunch time.

"Well, so much for not wanting to miss breakfast," he remarked, sighing as he turned the massive claw on the spit.

Judy placed a few large coconut pieces at the edge of the fire, hoping to roast them to bring out the flavor. "Yeah, well at least we'll be eating somethingâ€|and besides, we have plenty of food here, I'm sure we'll have more than enough left over for a proper breakfast tomorrow morning," she replied cheerfully, her optimism returning with full force. That optimism was just one of the many reasons Nick came to love Judy. He chuckled and nodded in agreement.

When the food was finally ready they dug in enthusiastically. Nick pulled out large chunks of crab meat with his teeth, chewing with his mouth open to keep from burning his tongue. Judy bit down on the lightly browned coconut flesh, giving an approving nod of the sweet treat. They ate loudly, forgoing any and all manners, too hungry to really care.

Both let out a satisfactory sigh, having gorged themselves on the oversized food. Nick couldn't even finish the whole claw, tying some leaves to the gaping hole of where the joints would meet to preserve the flesh still inside. In the end, only half of just one of the coconuts was used. The other half still had coconut meat and juices, to which they shared when they realized they had no source of clean drinkable water yet.

They poked at each other's jutting bellies, laughing and joking to various fat and pregnant jokes.

"Huhâ€|I bet Clawhauser would think this was paradise," Nick remarked, setting down the large claw on top of some leaves where he had stacked the other bits of food.

"Yeah, no kidding, I bet he would've finished that whole crab by himself," Judy replied with a giggle.

"And the coconuts," Nick added.

"All in one sitting," Judy topped off, the pair laughing at the thought of Clawhauser's face to all the food he would've had for basically free.

They rested against the palm tree, sitting carefully to avoid being near any possible landing points. Half the day was already gone, and it was time for them to figure out where to go from where they were.

"â€|Shall we do the classic 'make a giant S.O.S out of stones'

"routine first?" Judy suggested while turning a stone she picked up.

Nick nodded, adding to it, "and we can put up some torches, make it visible in the dark."

The two passed suggestions and ideas to each other, getting up and gathering stones while they spoke to each other. Making a raft came up should the initial 'be rescued' plan flopped. Nick joked about Macgrrver-ing a flying machine, which earned him a playful punch to his arm. While in the final stages of making their giant S.O.S marker, the subject of shelter and resting for the night came up.

"What are we going to do about resting for the night? I meanâ€|we've seen that this island has a lot of, y'know, 'giant things', " Judy pointed out. "We were lucky that we weren't attacked by anything last night, and we have all this food here now, I'm pretty sure something is going to want to come for it and probably us too," she continued while setting down the last of her stones.

Nick rubbed at his chin, contemplating the situation as he turned to Judy. "There's nothing we would be able to do really, we would just have to take turns sleeping and keep a lookout," he suggested. "And that would just leave the question of who would take first shift, and I know who," he says, the pair opening their mouths to answer.

"Me."

The response was in unison, and they looked at each other with conflicted expressions.

"Carrots, come on, let me have the first shift, you're hurt." Nick pointed out.

"Nick, it's because I'm hurt that I should take first shift, if you get exhausted taking it and then I take my turn, it would leave you too tired to help me if something should happen," she argued, continuing her explanation, "Think about it, if I'm well rested, what good is that?" she added while gesturing to her shoulder.

Nick thought about it carefully and there was little to deny that logic, if he was rested enough he would be able to do more. Still he was adamant, "you managed to take out that crab despite your shoulder."

No argument there, she did take it head on and succeeded. "I had that tree, if that wasn't there I wouldn't have been able to take it."

The argument went on with both sides giving solid reasons to let them take the first watch. Eventually Nick relented, seeing that arguing with Judy was an impossible feat. He sighs, nodding with a knowing smile. "Alright Carrots, you win, you can have first shift." He says in a mock defeated tone, ruffling her head.

She swatted his paw playfully, giggling. "I always win, dumb fox," she says triumphantly.

The sun was setting now and the two hurried back to their camp site. They hadn't managed to get torches ready and they decided to leave it be for now. Judy started another fire while Nick gathered large palm leaves to lay out as make shift beds. Using a few branches and some vines, he put together a small shelter and set the leaves under it.

The night crept in slowly as the two enjoyed another meal, the strange day finally ending. They sat there, side by side, gazing up to the clear night sky and into the ocean of stars. To Judy it felt nostalgic to her days back home in Bunnyburrow, sitting out in the fields with some of her siblings and watching for shooting stars. Nick, having never left the city, stared in amazement as a single word left his lips.

"Wow."

He never knew how beautiful the night sky was, the light pollution in the city making it impossible to see anything other than the lights from planes overhead. It was humbling to know that he had so much of the world yet to see and there was still a whole other frontier out there.

As they stargazed, Judy looked out at the darkened waters. "Do youâ€|do you think anyone knows what happened out here yet?" she asked while curling up, resting her chin on her knees.

Nick looked back down with her, sighing. "I'm certain that the coast guard was at least notified."

Judy nodded, her ears drooping at her next thought. "â€|Do you thinkâ€|all those other passengers...made it out alright?"

The fox wrapped an arm around his bundled rabbit, looking at her. "I won't lie to you and say they didâ€|but hey, if we managed to survive without a boat, I'm sure they did tooâ€|" he said to her, again using his best comforting tone.

She nodded, placing a paw onto Nick's back. "You should get a head start on some sleep, I'll wake you up later," she suggested to him, standing up to get more firewood.

With a sigh Nick reclined onto the bed of leaves, resuming his gaze upon the starry night. Sleep came to him slowly, listening to the soft crackling of the fire. The first day had come and gone. Though seemingly undeterred by it, they knew that there were stranger things to come given they hadn't even explored the jungles yet. Nick shuddered at the thought of what could be there, hiding amidst the dense canopy.

They didn't know it yet, but they were going to find out, soon enoughâ€|as a pair of gleaming eyes in the trees watched them unnoticed.

A/N: I warned you all that strange things were to come. Also, I am in need of editors, if anyone is willing to work with me, please PM me.

Chapter 3: Friendly Reception

Nick tore his way through the dense vegetation of the overgrown jungle floor, following a familiar scream in the distance. The canopy overhead cast an ever-present darkness that Nick's night vision could not pierce. Still he ran, his breathing reduced to panicked gasps and panting.

"Nick!"

Judy's screaming reached the fox, echoing in his skull. He looked around frantically with eyes full of distress. She was so close and he still could not see her.

"Nick!"

He looked up, distress turning into despair as he saw his partner entangled in a giant spider web. The beast that spun the web slowly made its way down, plucking the threads of its snare. Judy looked to him with absolute terror in her eyes.

"Judy!" Nick screamed as he tried to move, finding that he couldn't. He looked to his own body, finding that he was being restrained by several thick strands of web. His eyes grew wide, matching the terror in Judy's. He looked back up to see that the massive spider was encasing his partner in a cocoon of threads. He continued to scream out in despair, thrashing violently to break free but instead becoming more entangled. Nick watched as the spider stopped spinning herâ€|and bringing its fangs down on the cocoon. He cried out as he heard her scream one last timeâ€|

* * *

><p>"Nick! Wake up!"</p>

Nick's eyes shot open at the distressed voice of his partner, the nightmare still fresh in his mind. He jerked up, looking to find Judy staring at him with teary eyes and her paw over mouth. "Judy! You're alive!" He shouted whilst pulling her into a hug.

Judy looked at him in confusion, gasping at the sudden hug. "Y-yea, I am," she says, slowly hugging him back. She sniffled, causing Nick to break the hug to look at her.

"Judy, w-what's wrong?" he asked her, looking her over carefully to make sure he had in fact been dreaming.

"Nick, I'm so sorry! I'm so, so Sorry!" She replied, fighting back a sob.

Nick looked around, seeing the sun was up, it seemed to be late in the morning. His ears drooped upon realizing that he wasn't woken up to take over for the night watch. He returned to checking his partner, making sure she was alright. "Carrots, what happened?"

"Iâ€|I fell asleepâ€|I'm so sorry, I messed up, I messed up hard!" she apologized, sniffling as tears streamed down her face.

Nick shook his head as he brought her into a hug. "Hey hey, come on, it's ok, shhh don't cry Carrots," he told her while stroking her head. "We're fine, you're fine, no one got hurt, everything is alright!" Nick added enthusiastically.

"No it's not! I endangered us! And something took our food!" She exclaimed now completely sobbing.

The fox looked back to where the pile of food was wrapped up last night, seeing it was gone. He sighed as he turned back to Judy, still petting her. "Oh Carrotsâ€œ|that's not something to cry about." He stated, chuckling at her overreaction. "We can always get more food, and besides, you can't endanger us if we were never out of danger to begin with," he added whilst wiping her tears away.

"Butâ€œ|B-but I-"

"Was tired, you were exhausted I bet, I was that's for certain," he assured her, sighing with relief as he laid back down. He rubbed at his face. He was frustrated that the food was gone, yes, but there was definitely an abundance of it on this bizarre island.

Nick stared up at the morning sky, Judy joining him after she calmed down. She nestled herself next to her partner, sniffling and wiping the last of her tears away. "I'm still sorry," she said to him in a weak voice.

"Apology accepted, Carrotsâ€œ|but next time, don't give me a heart attack, alright?" he replied jokingly with a chuckle.

She let out a weak laugh. Admittedly, Nick's ability to be humorous in dark times wasn't as annoying as it usually was.

Nick sighed again and looked at her. "You must've been out cold, huh?" he asked her jokingly still, chuckling again.

"Yeahâ€œ|I was supposed to wake you up and instead you woke me up," she replies.

"Wait, I woke you up?" he asked her, the joking tone gone.

Judy looked at her partner, nodding. "Yeah, you were screaming and-and shakingâ€œ|you were even about to cry," she told him, her own tone changing to worry.

Nick nodded, rubbing his head as he stared into the sky. "Oh, thatâ€œ|Iâ€œ|I had a nightmareâ€œ|" he said flatly while closing his eyes.

"Well I figured thatâ€œ|butâ€œ|what was it? Was it that bad?" she asked while placing a paw to Nick's shoulder.

He nodded with a sigh. "We were in that jungleâ€œ|andâ€œ|I was following screams, your screamsâ€œ|I found you in a spider web, and you were about to be eaten by a spider as big as a house," he told her, shuddering upon seeing the spider's bite playing out in his head. He opened his eyes, clutching his chest, his heartbeat still panicked.

Judy shuddered with him, finding the thought to be gross and

terrifying. More so with terror upon realizing that it was entirely a possibility if all life on this island was as massive as it has been. She resumed her gaze into the sky with her partner. "We are way too lucky to be alive right now," Judy stated, rubbing her own face.

Nick chuckled and nodded in agreement. "We managed to live through the night, kinda weird, huh? It's almost like something is watching over—"

The sentence never finished as the pair were greeted by the face of an unknown feline, looming over them with a wide smile. "Howdy y'all!" greeted the stranger in a girlishly squeaky tone.

Nick and Judy screamed reactively, scrambling to their feet and staring at the newcomer while screaming and holding each other. Silence fell as the two stared in confusion.

"Well aren't y'all just the jumpiest lil' critters?" remarked the stranger with a giggle, placing her paws on her hips.

The pair observed the cat as silence fell again. An ocelot, if they had to guess she was probably just a foot taller than Nick. Her clothes were tattered. The only real article of clothing she had on was what could only have been a tank top at some point, reduced to only covering the cat's chest with both straps tied up. Around her waist was a paw-made grass skirt which covered her up to her thighs. She had a wide smile with cheerful blue eyes staring back at the two.

Nick broke the silence, confusion still plastered on his face. "Who the hell are you?!" he shouted earning a look of shock from the ocelot and a punch to his arm from Judy.

"Nick, that was too rude!" Judy exclaimed. Despite asking the same question in her head, she would've done so a little more politely.

Nick turned to her with his eyes still wide with distress. "Rude?! Carrots, I am ok with you scaring me half to death. I am NOT ok with random strangers doing the same!" he retorted, flailing his paws around in gesturing motions.

"Well let me make myself less of a stranger then!" interjected the ocelot. She reached forward and enthusiastically shook Nick's paw, giving him no time to react. "Mah name's Ocelynn, but everyone calls me Lynn back home so y'all can do the same!"

Nick took his paw back from the manic pawshake, backing away from the cat. Never in his life did he think he would find anyone who was more perky, more bubbly and overflowing with optimistic cheer than Judy. It scared him to know that that was ever a possibility. Despite this, he gave a weak smile. "H-hi" he managed to greet back, albeit just as weak as his smile.

Judy calmed down upon realizing the cat meant no harm, managing to greet her back as well. "Hello, um, Lynn? I-I'm Judy, this is my partner Nick," she says while holding out her paw from her good arm to be shook. She regretted the decision almost immediately as Lynn grabbed hold of her small paw and shook it frantically.

"Well it's a pleasure to meet both y'all nice folks!" Lynn stated while still shaking Judy's paw. The rabbit sighed with relief when the cat finally let go of her. The cheerful cat spoke fast and with unending energy. "Boy howdy, let me tell ya, it's just been so long since I seen any other mammals on this here island and-I'm just so excited, I think I might wet my britches! Well, if I had on britches, but I don't, see, but I got this cute lil' grass skirt on," Lynn stated, rocking her hips side to side quickly to emphasize the rustling of her skirt.

She had only begun to speak and Nick was already starting to get a headache trying to keep up with Lynn's squeaky fast-talking. _'Geez this girl has a mouth on her'_ he thought to himself, smiling still to hide his disdain as the cat continued.

"Anyhow, I can only guess y'all didn't come here on purpose what with y'all lookin' mighty messy," Lynn pointed out, much to their chagrin. "But hey, I can't be one to talk, right? Anyhow, Y'all folks hungry?" she asked with a wide grin. Before either of the pair had a chance to say anything, Lynn ran to a nearby jungle tree, climbing it with unnerving speed. A large bundle lands in front of the pair causing a dust cloud to form.

The two of them waved a paw in front of their faces, coughing while looking at what had fallen. It was the food that went missing. Judy stared at it in disbelief before looking up at the impossibly tall tree. _'How in this entire blue world did that cat get all this up there?'_ Judy wondered to herself, watching Lynn jump down from branch to branch and landing on her feet in front of them once more.

"Now see, y'all didn't know this, but keepin' y'all's food on the ground ain't a good idea, the ants might get em'," Lynn pointed out. "And let me tell ya, them lil' buggers are meeeeean, one of em' bit me this one time and mah foot swell'up bigger than a breadbox!" she recounted enthusiastically.

Judy looked at the bundle, puzzled at Lynn's logic. "Uhâ€|can't they climb the trees?" she asked while scratching her head.

"Yea, but they're less likely to take it from the tree is all I'm sayin'," she added on. "And as a extra bit of securimity, I put mah homemade repellant on the leaves y'all used to wrap this up!" she said while practically bouncing where she stood.

Nick kneeled down and picked up a leaf, sniffing it and reeling back in disgust. The repellant was strong, that was for certain, the scent practically drilling into his nostrils and ramming up to his brain. His stomach churned as he tossed the leaf. "You know what? I think I'm good for now," he stated, holding both paws up and backing away.

"Well, suit yerself, but don't worry, I have food at mah place too so if y'all get hungry later I can definitely feed y'all!" Lynn proclaimed cheerfully.

Judy shook her head as her own headache began to form. Snapping out of it, she realized something important. This cat, this ocelot, was a survivor. She looked at Lynn while shaking her head. "Ok ok, for just

a second, please, justâ€|stop talking!" She ordered the cat, sighing to collect her thoughts. "Lynnâ€|you're a survivor here, right? You said it's been so long since you saw another mammalâ€| so you weren't on the S.S. Purrseidon cruise line? How are you here then and when did you get here?" She asked sternly.

Lynn cocked her head to the side, perplexed by the question. "The S.S. what-now? That there name means it's a boat, right? No no, didn't get here by boat or nothin' on water fer that matter," she stated with a smile. "Nah, I'm a survivor of a plane crash, see, and that was so long ago, I don't remember how long neither," Lynn added on while scratching her head.

Judy nodded as she listened to Lynn. "Ok, that's alright, just needed to confirm that," Judy told her while picking up a piece of roasted coconut. "But, you've been on this island for a long time now, right? Did you come from the jungle back there?" She asked, snacking on the treat while listening to the response that followed.

"Yep yep! I heard a lot o' ruckus while I was out foragin' yesterday and I came to see. When I got here it was night and I saw y'all takin' a load off here on the beach!" Lynn exclaimed, pointing to Judy as she continued. "Then I saw you fall asleep and I thought I'd be a good neighbor and keep watch of y'all! Y'know, keepin' the bugs away, wrappin' up y'all's food and hidin' it, stuff like that!"

Nick looked at the cat with more confusion than before.
"Waitâ€|soâ€|you protected us?" he asked in disbelief. "Why?"

"Well, y'all are the only other mammals here, that's the honest truth, see, and I've been so alone, I thought if I did somethin' nice for y'all y'all would be mah friends!" She proclaimed excitedly.

Judy nodded at that, smiling gratefully at their night time guardian. Her ears drooped and her eyes widened at her next realization. "Wait, if you were watching us all nightâ€|youâ€|you didn't sleep? At all?" she asked in her own disbelief. "How are you not tired?"

"Oh don't get me wrong sugah, I am dead tired right now, I might crash any-" her words stopped as she very abruptly fell face forward, her face buried in the sand with her rear sticking in the air.

The two looked at the cat blankly as snoring was heard. They looked at her with even greater confusion then when they met her. They immediately noticed something that just now became apparent. Her lack of a tail. Despite all of the answered questions, the pair had even more questions for the catâ€| For now they let their guardian catch some rest, sitting in front of her. It felt as if though things were only going to get stranger from here.

A/N: I have no clue how formatting works on this site, so if it says I updated it might not be with a new chapter.

5. Skepticism, Romanticism, and Giants

Chapter 4: Skepticism, Romanticism, and Giants

Nick and Judy stared in silence at the sleeping ocelot named Lynn.

Judy quietly ate a piece of roasted coconut, her gaze never once breaking from the cat. Nick shifted uncomfortably where he sat while tapping on his knee. Suffice to say they were absolutely caught off guard by the forward feline. Yet they continued to sit, watching over her as she did for them during the night. It had been a full thirty minutes since Lynn had fallen asleep and the two wished desperately that they could wake her. They only refrained at the thought of having to be bombarded by more of the incessant rambling that she presented herself with.

Nick rubbed at his face, sighing impatiently. He leaned over to whisper at his partner. "It's not just me, right? This cat. She seems a little screw-loose?"

Judy didn't want to admit it, but she definitely thought it. She nodded in agreement, continuing her watch on their slumbering visitor and eating in silence.

"You don't think that maybe she's some kind of y'know, mammal eating freak out here, do you?" Nick asked while looking to Judy.

She finally broke her gaze, looking to Nick with concern. She didn't think about it before, but now that it was brought up she couldn't help but ponder on the idea. "I don't think so I hope it's not the case," she replied in whisper as she chucked her piece of coconut shell. "I mean, I've heard of primitive predator tribes that do that still, but she doesn't seem tribal, not to mention she said she got here by plane so she had to have come from some modern civiliza-"

"What're y'all talkin' 'bout?" came the cheerful and lightning fast voice of Lynn, her face mere inches from the pair.

They screamed while reeling back from the unpleasant surprise. Nick got up angrily, grumbling as he stood up. "Could you NOT do that?!" he scolded as Judy got to her feet as well, the rabbit rubbing her face in annoyance.

"I'm sorry there foxy, but y'all were having a convermasation and it sounded like somethin' fun!" Lynn replied as she got up on a handstand. Leaping backwards from her position, she flips in the air and lands on her feet. How the cat had so much energy after a thirty minute nap was beyond anyone's comprehension. She stretched while walking forward, joints all across her body giving a small yet satisfying pop. "Boy howdy, lemme tell ya, I love love loooooove naps! I can't get enough of 'em, 'specially durin' rainy days, or sunny ones, or cold ones, or-"

"Ok! Enough!" interjected Nick. "Look, we really appreciate what you did for us, really we do, but we have a whole day to try and work out a rescue plan, and the day is not getting any younger." said Nick harshly, earning himself another punch from Judy.

"Still too rude, Nick!" Judy hissed through clenched teeth. She turned to the fidgety and smiling ocelot with a sigh. "But really, yea, thank you Lynn," she added calmly while rubbing the back of her head. "Is there anything we can do to repay you?" she asked, catching nick rolling his eyes and punching him for the third time that morning.

Lynn tapped at her chin in thought, humming to herself. "Well I don't reckon there's anything I would want besides y'all's companionship!" she proclaimed as she walked around the pair in circles. The pair hadn't dismissed the idea of Lynn being a possible mammal eater. She might not have been tribal but the strange cat certainly seemed crazy enough and her constant wide eyed gaze was rather unsettling. "But I do reckon y'all are mighty fit, I take it y'all had some pretty active lives before comin' 'ere?" she asked while inspecting Judy's shoulder. "If'n y'all want to, y'all can come with me to my lil' abode in the trees!"

The rabbit nodded with a nervous smile. She didn't want to jump to conclusions about their protector, but the way she looked at her shoulder made it seem like she was scoping out weaknesses. "Uh, y-yeah, w-we're police officers so we have to stay in shape," she managed to stutter out, laughing nervously as Lynn drew her face closer to the shoulder. Nick kept watch of the ocelot's actions, his body ready to spring on her if she tried anything. Judy looked back at her partner as she continued. "Y-you see, we're the first rabbit and fox police officers from Zootopia and- AH!" the rabbit screamed as Lynn grabbed her arm along with her bad shoulder and jerked it upwards, causing the joint to make a series of loud pops. The scream was a mix of pain and fear that the cat was attacking her.

Nick lunged forward, tackling the cat to the ground. "What was that for!?" he questioned with a growl, pinning the cat while baring his teeth.

Lynn laughed as she was brought to the ground, looking up at the fox with a smile. "Oh don't worry sugah, I was just helpin' her!" she proclaimed with a wide grin.

Judy stared at the cat in confusion, swiveling her shoulder. '_Wait a minuteâ€¢'_ she thought to herself. The pain in her shoulder hadn't gone away necessarily, but it was now a dull throbbing sensation. A step up from the constant stinging that it had been during her time spent awake. She shook her head and inspected her shoulder herself. "Whatâ€¢did you do?" she asked as she rubbed the sore spot.

"What is it Carrots?" Nick looked to his partner while keeping Lynn firmly pinned to the ground.

"Well, it looked a lil' outta place, so I just popped it back in!" Lynn giggled out.

Both Nick and Judy stared at the cat. "You did what?" they asked incredulously in unison.

At this point Nick had already gotten off of the cat and was backing away to stand by Judy. Lynn leapt up from her lying position, again standing within arm's reach of the pair. "Y'all heard me, I put her shoulder back, I done seen plenty o' dislocated joints and what have you to know how to put 'em back where they belong," the cat proclaimed. "Done it to mahself a few times too!"

The pair stood slack jawed, blinking with blank stares. Their visitor was getting stranger by the second. Judy snapped out of her bewilderment first. "Thanksâ€¢!" her response was simple as she couldn't even figure out if there were any other appropriate

reactions. She couldn't tell if the cat was just being genuinely friendly or trying to lure the two of them into a trap. She found it difficult to think the latter with all that she had done up to this point. Judy hoped she wouldn't regret her next decision. "You've said you had a shelter in the jungle?" she asked slowly.

Nick snapped from his trance, looking to Judy when he realized what it was she is implying to ask. His protest was stopped before it began by the elated Lynn.

"Yea! I gots me a place in the jungle! Nice and cozy all up in the trees, oh I'm sure y'all would love it there!" she said happily as she grabbed her two new companions by the paws and started pulling them towards the jungle. Despair overcame Nick as he was dragged along, trying to fight back the pulling. Judy fought less so, rather just wanting to walk at her own pace.

"Lynn, Lynn! Wait!" Nick finally yelled out.

The cat stopped to look at the fox. "What is it sugah?" she asked while walking backwards towards the dense thicket.

"Justâ€|just hold on a second, alright? Carrots, a word if you will," Nick growled out while dragging his partner away. Once he was certain they were out of ear shot of the cat, he turned to Judy. "What are you thinking?" he asked angrily in a whisper. "This girl could be leading us to our deaths! We can't just trust her like that, we've only known her for like twenty minutes, tops! No, I am not going to count the half hour we spent watching her sleep," he hissed, his concern for their wellbeing evident in his tone.

"I know, but don't think I haven't thought it through!" Judy whispered back. "As of right now, she might be our best bet on surviving out here, and besides, if she turns out to be psycho we can take her, there's two of us, and only one of her!" she added whilst pointing to the catâ€|who was now next to them.

"One of who?" Lynn asked while looking at the finger pointed at her.

"Did no one ever teach you about privacy?!" Nick shouted, flailing his arms around in frustration.

The cheerful feline merely snickered at the fox's reaction. "Sugah, I live in the middle of a jungle with no one to talk to other then some bugs that don't even talk back, I done forgot what privacy is," Lynn pointed out with her paws on her hips, even her sass was cheerful.

"Now y'all done chattin'? cuz it's gonna take a bit of a hike to get to mah place," Lynn added while walking backwards once more.

Nick looked to Judy, the rabbit in turn nodding to him as she took off her sling. With a defeated sigh he too nodded. "Fine, I guess we're doing this," he huffed flatly.

"Then stick close y'all! That there jungle is no walk in the park, if ya lose me you might get lost fer good!" she warned, still just as cheerfully but not making the thought any more pleasant.

With apprehensive stares, the two looked towards the jungle. They gulped as they began their trek, following Lynn closely. The day was

only beginning and they were entering foreign land that was more than likely to be bristling with danger. In the confusion of it all, the pair completely forgot their S.O.S. marker, leaving it behind as their forms disappeared into the overgrowth.

The pair did their best to try and keep up with their new cat guide. They were left moderately surprised at how long she went without talking. The spell was broken as they made it about a mile into the thicket.

"Now y'all said y'all were cops, right?" She asked while looking back, skipping along the network of thick roots. Neither one of the two officers had the chance to confirm her claim as they climbed clumsily along the uneven terrain. "Funny, I didn't know that rabbits and foxes could join, let alone be partners and what not!" she exclaimed, getting an annoyed glare from the pair.

"Yes, well, we proved ourselves a year ago with a pretty serious case in the city," Judy claimed proudly.

"You might've heard of it, the infamous missing mammals and Night Howler conspiracy?" Nick added with equal pride as he puffed out his chest.

"Nope, can't say I have!" Lynn claimed back while somersaulting over a root arching off the ground.

The two looked at the cat in disbelief. Judy, however, took note of this and kept it clear in her mind. Whoever this cat was, she had been out here before her and Nick had solved the Night Howler case one year back. One year. Judy couldn't even think about what surviving one month on this crazy island was like.

"Seriously?" Nick asked with genuine surprise.

Lynn dropped herself upside down on another root arching out overhead, dangling from the thick root with her legs hooking over it. "Yep! I don't get any news out here!" she proclaimed before swiftly leaping off the root and onto a vine, subsequently swinging to a nearby boulder.

The two sped after her, even Judy's agility faltered in the unfamiliar territory. Nick looked up to the cat who was casually strolling atop the boulder and back down to the mossy jungle floor. Lynn turned to them as she continued walking backwards. "But I believe ya, y'all don't look much like liars," She said while cartwheeling along the trail.

Nick found himself getting dizzy trying to keep up with energetic cat. Not just in the sense of following her, but also in his wasted efforts on trying to comprehend anything she told them. He opened his mouth to speak, only to be cut off by a sudden noise.

Thoom!

The pair turned to the sound, seeing the cause with wide eyes. They were so enraptured in trying to figure out the strange ocelot that they had forgotten where they were. Atop the boulder they were next to moments ago sat a massive Hercules Beetle, easily the size of

Judy's family tractor. The rabbit and the fox backed away slowly and quietly.

"BOO!"

Again the pair screamed, jumping at the sudden spook. They turned to find a laughing Lynn rolling around on the ground. "Ah ha haaa! Y'all should see the looks on y'all's faces!" teased the cat, struggling to breathe.

Nick was fuming. "What is your problem?!" he snapped as Judy tried to hold him back.

Lynn got up while wiping the tears that had formed from laughing so hard, sighing as she looked at the furious fox. "Oh don't get yer britches in a bunch sugah, that there beetle is harmless," she assured them. As if to prove her point, she walked up to the beast with a large rotten leaf picked from the ground. She gave it to the beetle and watched it munch away at it slowly. "See? It don't mean no harm!" she exclaimed, resuming her walk.

Nick would've been lying if he had said he wasn't impressed by the gutsy ocelot. Still he could only be angry at her. Here he was, genuinely scared for him and his partner, and this cat was making it a joke. "Ok then little Miss Jungle Queen, what SHOULD we be worried about?" he asked sarcastically.

"Well, that there might be a good place to start," Lynn stated while pointing behind Nick. To which he shook his head.

"Ha, you think I'm gonna fall for-"

The fox was brought to duck down at the last second by his screaming partner. He was interrupted as a large blur of yellow and black zoomed by, kicking up dust on its path. The pair looked up to see the large beast continue its flight. A bee-like creature the size of a full grown camel.

"What the hell was that?!" Nick asked wide eyed.

"That there was a hornet," Lynn replied as she continued walking along. "Meanest of the bunch, them hornets, they like to pick on smaller critters, see, and not just other insects, but anything that moves really," she added while picking up Nick and Judy off the ground. "Don't get stung by 'em neither, I'm pretty sure just one of 'em suckers are enough to kill someone."

If Nick wasn't certain that this cat was trying to kill them before, he certainly did now. "Ok, we are turning around!" he stated while grabbing Judy by the arm. "Carrots, we are gone, we are outie, we are no longer in the building. Lynn, it was nice meeting yo-"

"Nick, stop that!" Judy protested, pulling her arm away. "We knew exactly what we were going to be getting into when we started following Lynn, and the fact of the matter is that we probably won't live long without some guidance which she can clearly provide," the rabbit pointed out while pointing to the aforementioned ocelot.

"Carrots, I get that we need help, but do we really need it from

someone who would willingly put us in danger like this?" Nick barked, getting an incredulous look from his partner and an amused look from Lynn. "Ok, maybe she isn't putting us in danger on purpose, but still, she's dragged us into this jungle filled with literal GIANTS!"

"Oh and we would've been so better off on the beach?! After yesterday's fiasco, I think it's pretty clear nowhere on this island is safe, Nick, but if you want to go back and take your chances at being torn apart by crabs or what have you, then go ahead! I bet you'll get lost on your way back anyways!" Judy shouted back.

At this point, Lynn couldn't help but laugh again at the scene unfolding before her. The pair both looked at her, their irritation at an all-time high. "What're you laughing at?!" they shout in unison.

"I'm sorry darlin's, but y'all just seem so much like a married couple!" the giggling ocelot blurted out, rolling on the ground once again.

Nick's anger faded immediately, as did Judy's. The rabbit drew her ears back to hide the pink tinge they were getting. Nick coughed into his paw, rubbing the back of his head. They did admit they loved each other at one point, but were never able to bring it up with one another in front of anyone else. They wanted to keep things strictly professional for the time being and maybe keep any hints at a relationship under wraps. Especially out of the fact a predator-prey interspecies couple was a highly frowned upon thing despite how progressive Zootopia was. Upon seeing the looks on their faces, Lynn stared at them with a wide grin, gasping as she stood.

"Y'all ARE a married couple!" She blurted out.

"Wh-what! No, no, definitely not!" Judy corrected her misunderstanding.

"Yea, w-we're strictly professional partners," Nick attempted to add.

Silence fell with Lynn merely staring at the two whilst biting her bottom lip. Her ever beaming gaze whittled them down.

"Well I do admit though, I do like her," Nick said quietly, his voice trailing off.

"And, well, we did sort of humor the idea of being a thing," Judy said quietly as well.

"Oh shut up you two and KISS!" Lynn blurted in excitement paired with impatience.

"Ugh, just please, forget about this?" Judy whined.

"Why? Y'all are adorable together! Besides, I won't judge!" Lynn assured her, resuming her path. "Love is love darlin's, and if y'all love each other, then hey, live and let live, right?"

With a heavy sigh the pair resumed their hike with Lynn. Despite the many irritating things she brought upon them, they were at least glad

to know she wasn't the judgmental type.

The journey went on with Lynn breaking into songs, many of which were country classics about traveling. Their path was filled with danger as expected. Several close calls with a multitude of varying giant insects filled their eventful afternoon.

Admittedly, it was nowhere near as bad as they thought, especially with Lynn acting accordingly to diffuse their encounters into minor nuisances at worst. The scenery wasn't anything to scoff at either; the land was certainly a sight to behold. The plant life was equally large with giant flowers of vibrant colors filling the dense green and brown. And not all of the insects they encountered were all that bad; some of them were even pretty, such as the butterflies.

Nick maintained his vigil, recalling the nightmare he had last night. He kept his eyes peeled for spiders specifically, finding it odd he had yet to see one. Nevertheless, the possibility was there and he knew it.

After what seemed like an eternity of walking, the party came upon a particularly dense area of trees. The trunks and branches of the gargantuan trees seemed to connect into a labyrinthine network of natural bridges. It was a breathtaking sight. The pair was so taken aback at the sight that they didn't even notice when the ground had transitioned into wood and bark.

Lynn turned to the weary pair, still somehow full of energy despite only having thirty minutes of sleep that day. "Alright y'all, my place is just ahead!" she exclaimed, bounding off along the massive branch they stood upon.

The pair followed suit, following the cat into the canopy above. When they made it through, the place which Lynn called home could be seen. They stared in shock, wide eyes scanning the clearing. Entangled in branches and vinesâ€| were the remains of a plane. The group stood beside a wing, missing several plates of metal. The tail end was ripped asunder and the torn opening covered by a massive tarp. The cockpit hung off the edge of the network of branches, held in place by thick vines. Written across the side of the hull were three simple words:

Home Sweet Home.

A/N: phew, this one took a lot out of me. Next few updates will slow down more now that I will be having other people proofread and edit my stuff. Thank you all for reading, a few reviews for pointers will still be appreciated.

6. Home Sweet Home?

Chapter 5: Home Sweet Home?

"The whole planeâ€|" whispered Judy as she stared from the entangled tail right up to the nose of the ruined aircraft. She had recalled how Lynn told them she was the survivor of a plane crash. She did not, however, think the cat had meant the plane was on land. And of all places it was held within the dense canopy of the jungle. Yet here they were, staring at the right half of the wreckage.

"Well, not really the whole plane, see, we're on the good half, the other side is gone," Lynn pointed out, bounding along the wide branch they were standing on. "And this here wing's mostly gone, and then there's that chunk o' the tail missin' over there, the paint is all gone and- OH! Did I mention the landin' gear? They're gone too!" Lynn added cheerfully as she pointed at all the missing components, skipping along what was left of the wing. "N' I admit some of the wing I kinda tore up mahself cuz I needed the metal fer other stuff, but I don't think it really mattered much, I mean, y'all see this right? This here flyin' machine ain't gon' be flyin' 'gain no time soon!"

Nick shook his head while rubbing at his temples. This was all becoming too much to take in and some things just didn't make sense. "But besides that, this plane landed here like thisâ€|and you're the _only _survivor?" Nick questioned while following the energetic feline. Skepticism returned to him, it just didn't add up that the plane ended up on land mostly in-tact and only one animal had survived. He was weary of climbing along the wing for it creaked uneasily as his and Judy's weight was applied. "I mean, come on, the landing couldn't have been that rough," he added while looking the wreckage over carefully.

Lynn stopped bouncing along the wing and silence fell. Nick and Judy stared at her, Nick more so with concern after realizing what he just said. He spoke of something that must've been traumatizing so lightly and he regretted it immediately. The ocelot turned to the pair, her ever present smile replaced with a flat frown. "I didn't think it was right neither," she began while looking at the tail end of the plane. The cheerfulness she exuded before was gone from her tone and the pair was already starting to miss it upon seeing the alternative. "When y'all get insideâ€|ye'll kinda understan', " she said while walking along another branch leading to a hatch door. Lynn slowly opened it, the hinges creaking loudly from the rust caked in.

The pair looked inside cautiously. Lynn's previous statement of the other half being missing was made apparent. The upper hull of the left side was stripped off and several of the chairs were gone, the metal frayed where bolts would've been to secure the seating. Another large chunk of the aircraft was missing where the left wing would've been, leaving a large ragged gap in the plane. Cool wind made its way through the hollow cavity, making the air whistle eerily. They stepped inside slowly, looking down the aisle and in each of the chairs that were still present.

Judy turned to Lynn as the cat entered herself. "Now seeâ€|when I woke upâ€|I came in here to see if anyone was aliveâ€|didn't think I'd find it to be empty instead," Lynn pointed out, her voice filled with an unfamiliar sadness. "The compartment I was in? No one was alive, seeâ€|some folks were still puttin' on their seatbelts whenâ€|" her voice trailed off, biting her lip as the pain became evident in her eyes.

Judy took the cat's paw, patting it gently. "You don't have to say itâ€|weâ€|we can figure it outâ€|" the rabbit told her, looking around the torn interior. Depressing was an understatement. Judy could only imagine how terrible it was for the cat to realize anyone who could've made her time on the island even remotely less painful and less lonelyâ€|were all gone. It made Lynn's normally cheerful

demeanor all the more impressive in hindsight.

Nick gulped dryly, the regret squeezing at him for making the cat relive her tragedy in her head. The hurt in her voice made him wince. He turned to Lynn, scratching at his throat. "I'm sorry!" he choked out, "I didn't mean to--"

Nick was interrupted once again as Lynn placed a finger to the fox's muzzle. "Apology accepted sugah, I know ya meant no harm," Lynn assured him, smiling softly as she began walking towards the tail end of the plane. "I reckoned y'all would find it mighty suspicious and what not that lil' ol' me was the only one who made it," she stated, a small laugh followed while she opened the flap separating the plane's segments. "And y'all have every right to be," she finished as she unveiled the tail segment.

The tail segment was cleared of all but a few of the chairs, the ground where the seats used to be covered with blankets and small pillows. At the end of the long segment was the hole they saw from the outside covered by the tarp. A branch had grown in through the windows which gave some assurance that the plane was held firmly in place. The ceiling of the plane had small assorted vines with bottles and shiny rocks tied to them for decoration. The thing that was noted most of all was the wall to their left. The pair took careful observation of what looked to be an incomplete map of the island.

"Yea, I done decided that I needed to keep track of where I'd been a lil' while back," Lynn pointed out upon seeing her guests staring at the map. The ocelot turned to face the pair, smiling wide. "But anyhow, take a load off y'all, make yerselves at home!" Lynn shouted, her cheerfulness returning much to the pair's relief.

They smiled back at their host, nodding in agreement to the cat's suggestion. Nick sat on the floor of the plane atop a pile of blankets. Judy followed suit, reclining against her own pile. It brought them some comfort both physically and emotionally. Something so simple was a luxury in their situation. They watched as Lynn sat in front of them on a pile of pillows instead. The cat bounced in her seat, smiling at her guests. "Comfy ain't it?" she asked while smiling.

"Yeah, heh, it's only been, what, two days since we've been here? And I already forgot what blankets were like," Nick joked while pawing at a blanket under him. It was, in fact, comfortable, certainly a step up from lying on sand and leaves.

"It's cozier in here than I thought it would be," Judy pointed out, curiously looking at all the small decor. Her violet eyes began observing other things, paying attention to any labels that might've been present. She had many questions for Lynn but avoided asking them after Nick having just hurt her.

The next few words that came out of the cat's mouth startled her.

"I know y'all got a lot of questions n' such, so if y'all wanna ask me, now's the time," Lynn stated while reclining on the pillows.

It was as if she had been reading their minds and Judy merely stared wide eyed at the cat. "O-oh! Uh-oh um!" Judy found herself at a

loss for words. She didn't know where to begin upon being given permission to ask, still taken aback by it. The rabbit thought carefully as to what she wanted to ask first. "â€|Youâ€|Wouldn't happen to know what flight this wasâ€|would you?" she asked, hoping that maybe she heard of this plane in the news.

Lynn sat up, tapping her chin. "Well, I think this flight wasâ€|Safaria Airsâ€|uhâ€|num'er 9090, bound fer Zootopia National Airport?" Lynn answered with uncertainty. "Ya see, I was on mah way back from vacation, visitin' kin out there, they're leopards, see, n' I was-"

Judy didn't wait to hear the rest of Lynn's story upon hearing the flight's call sign. She thought back carefully to the flight number, thinking about any news article she might've read regarding the missing plane. Nick who had been quiet the whole time stared in bewilderment at the ocelot.

"Seven yearsâ€|" he uttered aloud.

Judy turned to Nick, perplexed at what he had just said. "What did you say?" she asked, seeking confirmation.

"Seven yearsâ€|this plane went missing seven years agoâ€|" he stated slowly. The pair's eyes were fixed to Lynn now, absolutely baffled. "Youâ€|were here for seven years?" Nick asked in disbelief.

"Well, I reckon that sounds about right actually!" Lynn replied cheerfully.

Nick and Judy stared in stunned silence. It was one surprise after another when it came to Lynn, but this was easily the most disconcerting of all. To survive on this island for even a few days seemed nothing short of a miracle. Yet the cat before them had managed to do so for seven yearsâ€|and she did so alone. In solitude she lived within this maddening land. The pair were babbling at this point, trying desperately to catch fleeting words to form a question. Something, anything to ask to make sense of what they had just heard.

Judy pulled through, only repeating Nick's question with a single detail added in. "You lived on this island for seven yearsâ€|alone?" she asked with bewilderment still in her voice.

"Well, for most of it anywaysâ€|" Lynn replied, her voice seeming to trail off.

Nick's expression changed from bewilderment and concern to suspicion once more. Judy blinked at the response, her brow furrowing in thought as she took what the cat just said. Nick sat up to lean forward to ask another question. Lynn had either not noticed their expressions or pretended not to so as she stood up. "So, that hike was somethin' else, I reckon y'all are hungry!" she exclaimed as she bounded off towards the rear galley of the plane, leaving her guests staring incredulously at her.

Nick leaned over to Judy, his voice lowered to a whisper. "Carrotsâ€|you heard that just now, right?" he asked while keeping his eyes on the galley entrance.

Judy nodded in silent agreement. What had felt off before returned with full force. '_For most of itâ€|^' she repeated in her mind. She didn't want to think ill of their host, but couldn't shake the idea that there was something wrong now. Somethingâ€|^terribly wrong. She too kept her gaze on the galley as she whispered to her partner. "We should avoid confronting her about it though; she might just get defensive and avoid answering any questions."

Nick too nodded to his partner's suggestion. "For now though, let's just play alongâ€|^maybe we can get something out of her," he added as he stood up to approach the galley. He made sure to try and look like he didn't seem to suspect anything. Judy followed close behind, clearing her throat.

"So what do y'all wanna chow down on? I got crickets, strawberries, p'taters, I think this here's cabbage, some coconut, a pineapple—" Lynn listed off food item after food item, tossing some of the aforementioned food out of the galley. Nick watched as a dead cricket as large as Judy was thrown out, followed by several basketball sized strawberries. Things didn't get any less impressive as several potatoes were cast out, each of them could've easily been mistaken for large stones. A large leafy cabbage bounced off the wall of the plane, landing amongst the strawberries. Lynn poked her head out of the galley's entrance and looked at the pair with her signature wide smile. "I also got something I picked jus' the other day, I think they might be blueberries, but—"

"Blueberries?" Nick blurted out as his ears stood up. Judy stifled a laugh, a knowing smile on her face. Lynn had inadvertently said the magic word.

"Yeah, or, y'know, I think they're blueberries, I mean, they look like blueberries, smell like blueberries, but I don't rightly know if they are blueberries, I hadn't tried 'em yet," Lynn added as she heaved, seemingly picking up a basket in the galley.

"Oh come on, don't tease me like that, if they look like them, and smell like them, I'm pretty sure they're going to be—" Nick was silenced immediately from his train of thought as Lynn placed an orb in his paw. The fox's ears fell flat and his eyes grew wide. He knew that any food that was to be found was going to be large, yet it did little to prevent his shock. The suspected berry in his paw was the size of a softball.

"Yeah, see, I don't rightfully know what to say about these here berries, they might be poisonous wild berries, but I wouldn't know 'til someone tries 'em or—"

The cycle of interruptions continued as Nick hungrily wolfed down the gargantuan berry, not hesitating despite Lynn's warning. Within seconds the orb was gone, leaving the two girls startled. Nick slowed down on chewing the fruit as the girls watched in anticipation. Judy stared at the lump in the fox's throat as he swallowed.

Then they waitedâ€|^

Nick gave a wide grin, showing bits of berry still stuck between his teeth as he gave his verdict. "They're. Freakin'. Blueberries!" he shouted out as he raided the galley himself. All that was heard was the continued ravaging of the berries and loud chewing.

Lynn was now the one to step back in shock at the spectacle. She leaned to Judy with a nervous smile now. "Yer, uh, guy friend hereâ€œ|he sure likes 'em there blueberries, huh?"

"They're his favorite," Judy pointed out to which Lynn nodded in understanding.

"Gotcha."

Nick shuffled out of the galley with his belly slightly bulging whilst holding a handmade basket, half empty of its contents. He held a partially eaten blueberry in his other paw. The fox chewed with a blank stare, seemingly entranced. "Carrots, I think, mmm, I think we're dead, this has to be heaven," Nick proclaimed with his mouth full. He scarfed down the remaining blueberry in his paw and sat himself at the frame of the doorway.

Judy shook her head smiling. "Don't even joke about that, Wilde," she said while moving up to the galley door. The small kitchen had been cleared of most of the airline food, presumably eaten. The hollowed out compartments instead overflowed with assorted giant foods. Makeshift pots and pans made from beaten sheet metal hung from the ceiling on more vines. Judy scanned the mountain of stockpiled food carefully and noted one odd thing. There was an unusual amount of vegetables. "Huh, for an animal that's primarily a carnivore, you sure have a lot of veggiesâ€œ|" she stated aloud.

"Oh, uh, force o' habit really, I worked on a farm for most mah life," Lynn stated while sitting beside the dead cricket and tearing off a leg.

Judy looked at Lynn incredulously, a single brow raised. "Really? And what sort of crops did you work with?" she asked while picking up what could only be a giant carrot, struggling to break off a small chunk.

The cat fiddled around with the leg, breaking off spines and tossing them aside. "Well, nothin' traditional really, we sorta grew a lot o' corn n' other grains n' such, but that was mostly so we can feed crickets, see, mah family are cricket ranchers," she stated before biting down on the de-spiked leg.

Nick and Judy both looked at the cat now. "Cricket ranchers?" they asked in unison.

"Yea, Zootopia had to get their crickets from somewhere y'know," Lynn pointed out with her mouth full. She swallowed loudly and giggled. "Mah family ships out hundreds o' pounds o' them lil' critters every few luna cycles!" she exclaimed proudly, a beaming smile on her face. Her smile seemed to fade suddenly, slowly turning to a frown. "Or, y'knowâ€œ|I think they're still shippin' 'em out like thatâ€œ|"

Despite their suspicion, the pair couldn't help but feel sorry for the cat. Being away from loved ones for so long would be heartbreakingly sad to anyone. Judy felt an overbearing pain in her chest, being from a large and loving family of her own. She severely missed her parents and all 275 of her siblings.

Nick set the basket down and slid across to sit by Lynn. He set a paw on her back and patted her gently. "I'm sure their business is booming, hell, cricket sales were going up this past year," Nick pointed out reassuringly. True enough, after the Night Howler incident a large influx of predator specific merchandise went up. Food being sold had increased in revenue most of all and Nick knew it.

Lynn rubbed at her eyes and smiled to Nick. "Thanks foxy, I just wish I knew what they're all up to back at the ranchâ€|" She said with a sigh, taking another bite from the cricket leg.

Judy sat herself down on the other side of Lynn after finally getting a chunk of her carrot. "Well, we'll all find out later, we'll make it off this island together!" Judy stated joyously to match the ocelot's usual cheerfulness.

The air felt tense once more as the pair saw Lynn's face fall. She stared out blankly; an inexplicable hurt seemed to linger in her eyes. It was a constant tug of war on whether or not to be suspicious of or to be concerned for the ocelot as the pair watched her. Nick took notice at her fighting back a shake with his paw still on her back. Judy leaned to look at Lynn's face carefully, her own expression being that of concern. "L-Lynn?"

Lynn snapped out of her trance, locking eyes with the rabbit. "H-Huh? Oh, r-right, yeah, we'll get out o' here, definitely!" she replied hastily with a nervous laugh. "L-listen, it's gettin' dark n' all, I'm gonna go n' put some fresh repellent on the plane, be right back!" she exclaimed, getting up quickly and hurrying out of the compartment.

Judy watched their host bolt out of the plane, not even having a chance to try and stop her. Concern and suspicion were at odds with her once more. All she could manage was to scratch at her head, she hadn't even eaten her carrot yet and she was losing her appetite. "This just keeps getting stranger and strangerâ€|" she said aloud, turning to Nick. "Right?"

Instead she found Nick had moved to the end of the tail to the large covered hole. His head was peering over the edge and under the wreckage.

"Nick? What are you doing there?" Judy asked as she approached the fox.

Nick got up and looked to her, gesturing with his head for her to come closer. "Judy, I think you should look at thisâ€|" he says in a whisper just in case Lynn was near the hole.

Judy let her ears flick around, listening for their host. She was able to sense that the cat was more towards the end of the wing. She approached the massive tear, going prone to better see the underside of the plane. Nick joined her, resuming his previous position, gesturing with his head to point out the object of interest. It was a small metal device, painted bright orange with patches of missing paint. Judy eyed the object curiously, tilting her head to try and get a better angle of it. "What is that?"

"That," Nick began, "is the plane's black box," he stated, looking at

the ironically named object. "They're used to track down planes after they've crashed!"

"Seriously?! Then we might still have a chance!" Judy blurted out in a hushed but excited tone.

Nick merely shook his head getting back up, Judy sitting back up with him. "I doubt it, black boxes were made to be survivable, but they hardly last long after going active. At most, it would've died out in a few months after the plane crashed and this one crashed seven years ago," he pointed out while rubbing at his chin. "Nothing is adding up," he remarked.

Judy nodded in agreement, it wasn't just Lynn that was confusing them now, but it was everything about this whole affair. The list of questions was growing and they were actually growing fearful of what the answers would be.

Why had no one found the island?

Why had Lynn chosen to stay put for seven years?

What was she trying so desperately to hide?

A/N: fun little fact- Ocelot's can be found in Texas out in the wild, although they're considered endangered locally. This is actually the biggest reason I gave Ocelynn a thick southern accent. That and I thought it would pair well with the cheerfulness I was aiming to give her.

Work is picking up for me so I'm even more delayed now in getting anything done. Chapter 6 is in the works, but it is far from complete, I apologize to all of you who read this story.

End
file.